

Merlin disease code: 05290 Varicella (Chickenpox)

[Paper case report form](#) required
Merlin extended data required

Clinical criteria for case classification

See varicella (chickenpox) case definition.

Laboratory criteria for case classification

See varicella (chickenpox) case definition.

Epidemiological criteria for case classification

See varicella (chickenpox) case definition.

Case classification

Confirmed:

A confirmed case of varicella which contributes directly or indirectly to acute medical complications which result in death.

Probable:

A probable case of varicella which contributes directly or indirectly to acute medical complications which result in death.

Criteria to distinguish a new case from previous reports

Not applicable.

Comments

Cases of varicella infection that resulted in death should be reported under the reporting code for varicella (disease code 05290) in Merlin with the date of death listed in the case information. It should be noted in the Merlin case notes that infection due to varicella was determined as the cause of death.

Laboratory confirmation of cases of varicella is available through the Bureau of Public Health Laboratories; laboratory confirmation should be obtained for fatal cases.

The additional varicella Death Investigation Worksheet must still be filled out and attached to the case in Merlin or sent to Bureau of Epidemiology. Please see case definition for varicella (chickenpox) in order to classify a case of varicella infection that did not result in death.

Varicella mortality should only be reported for cases of chickenpox. Herpes-zoster infections (shingles) are not reportable.